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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,457	05/02/2005	Sabine Mollus	DE020086US	2736
24737	7590	01/04/2008		EXAMINER
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS				RAMIREZ, JOHN FERNANDO
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			3737	
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			01/04/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/509,457	MOLLUS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John F. Ramirez	3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

After a careful review of applicant's remarks dated on 10/23/07 and 03/15/06 and 10/05/06 with respect to claims 1-10 have been fully considered and are not persuasive.

With respect to claims 1-10, allowability has been withdrawn and claims have been rejected in view of prior art, non-statutory subject matter and indefiniteness.

In relation to the section 102(b) rejection that anticipated claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 using Ohe, applicant alleges that the Ohe disclosure is limited in that "only one reference instant is used for the cardiac cycle". However, the examiner notes that simply duplicating the number of references instant to avoid undesirable and disturbing artifacts in the differential sequence should not be given patentable weight since such process is a mere duplication of the system as disclosed by Ohe (US 4,729,379). Duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960). Therefore previous rejections with respect to these claims still stand.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-10 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The terms "determining" and "determine" in claims 1-10 are relative terms which renders the claims indefinite. The terms "determining" and "determine" are not defined by the claims, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim is directed to a computer program, which constitutes non-statutory subject matter.

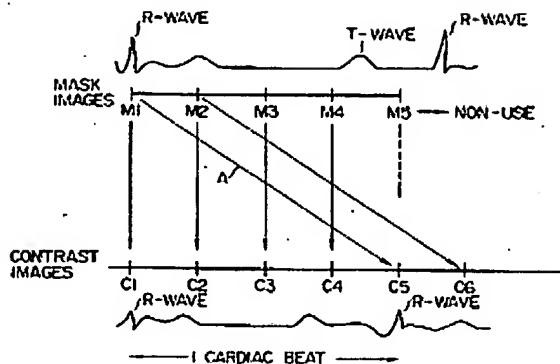
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

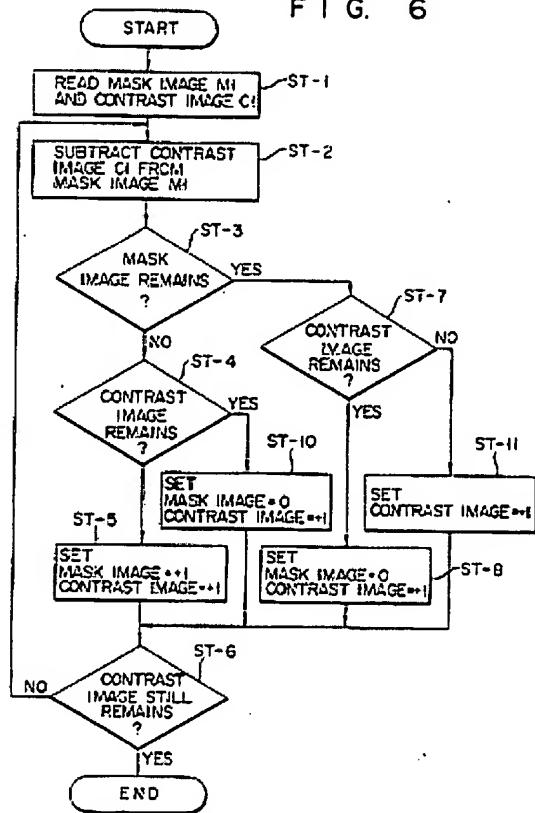
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohe (US 4,729,379).

F I G. 4



F I G. 6



With respect to claim 1, Ohe shows in Figures 4 and 6, a method of determining a corresponding image for a reference image from an image sequence of a moving object by means of a first and a second motion signal, in which the first and the second

motion signal represent the respective variation in time of the states of motion of a first motion and a second motion of the object, the image sequence represents the first motion of the object as a sequence of images of states of motion, the reference image represents a state of motion from the second object motion and is acquired at a reference instant during the second motion of the object including the following steps: a) determining a similarity function by way of a similarity comparison of the first and the second motion signal, b) determining a correspondence instant in the first motion signal by means of the similarity function, the correspondence instant corresponding to the acquisition instant of the reference image from the second motion signal, c) determining, using the first motion signal, that image of the image sequence whose acquisition constant corresponds at least approximately to the correspondence instant.

With respect to claims 4-6, Ohe shows in figures 1, 2A and 2B a method characterized in that the first and the second motion signal form an electrocardiographic signal and that the images of the image sequence and the reference image represent states of motion of a human or animal heart, characterized in that the blood vessels of the heart are filled at least partly with a contrast medium either in images of the image sequence or in the reference image, characterized in that the image sequence forms an X-ray image sequence and/or the reference image forms an X-ray image (col. 2, lines 22-57).

With respect to claims 8-10, Ohe shows in Figure 3 a system which includes a data processing unit for determining a corresponding image of a moving object for a reference image from an image sequence by means of a first motion signal (50,

Figure3), the data processing unit being arranged to carry out a method as claimed in claim 1, an examination apparatus which includes an X-ray image detector and means for the detection of electrocardiographic signals, which apparatus includes a system as claimed in claim 1 (90, Figure 3), a computer program or computer program product which is arranged to cooperate with a data processing unit in such a manner that the data processing unit is capable of carrying out a method as claimed in claim 1 (50, Figure 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohe in view of Vullings (*Automated ECG segmentation with Dynamic Time Warping*) in further view of Beier (*Advanced Subtraction Angiography: Mask selection and Image Registration*) and in further view of Urbano et al. (US 6,228,030).

In reference to claims 2, 3 and 7, Ohe teaches all the limitations of the claimed subject matter except for mentioning specifically the steps of characterizing in that the similarity function is obtained by means of the so-called dynamic time warping method, characterizing in that an interpolation image is formed from the corresponding image and a further image from the image sequence, which interpolation image represents at

least substantially the state of motion of the object at the correspondence instant, and additionally, characterizing in that the image sequence and/or the reference image forms an ultrasound image.

However, the steps of 1) characterizing in that the similarity function is obtained by means of the so-called dynamic time warping method, 2) characterizing in that an interpolation image is formed from the corresponding image and a further image from the image sequence, which interpolation image represents at least substantially the state of motion of the object at the correspondence instant, and 3) characterizing in that the image sequence and/or the reference image forms an ultrasound image are considered conventional in the art as evidenced by the teachings of Vullings (*Automated ECG segmentation with Dynamic Time Warping*), Beier (*Advanced Subtraction Angiography: Mask selection and Image Registration*) and Urbano et al. (US 6,228,030).

The Vullings publication teaches the step of characterizing in that the similarity function is obtained by means of the so-called dynamic time warping method. Moreover, the Beier publication teaches the step of characterizing in that an interpolation image is formed from the corresponding image and a further image from the image sequence, which interpolation image represents at least substantially the state of motion of the object at the correspondence instant, and Furthermore, the Urbano et al., patent teaches the step of characterizing in that the image sequence and/or the reference image forms an ultrasound image.

Based on the above observations, for a person of ordinary skill in the art, modifying the method disclosed by Ohe, with the above discussed enhancements would have been considered obvious because such modifications would have a great effect upon image quality.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

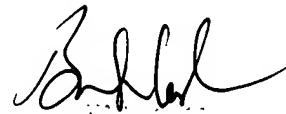
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John F. Ramirez whose telephone number is (571) 272-8685. The examiner can normally be reached on (Mon-Fri) 7:00 - 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JFR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Casler".